

REMARKS

The Office Action dated February 13, 2006 has been read and carefully considered and the present amendment submitted in order to better define the invention.

In that Office Action, claims 1, 5, 6 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garde *et al*, U.S. Patent 6, 325,241 in view of Baker *et al*, U.S. Patent 5,984,122. Claims 3, 7, 8, 10, 12, 15, 18, 21 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garde *et al*, in view of Baker *et al* and further in view of Lambelet, U.S. Patent 5,551,597 as applied to claim 2 and further in view of McAllister *et al*, U.S. Patent 5,782,359.

The rejection of the claims in the present application is respectfully traversed. It is submitted that the main reference relied upon in the rejection is that of Garde *et al* and that the Garde *et al* reference fails to disclose one of the important features of the present invention.

The Garde *et al* reference does not allow the rotation of the cover (22) in “either direction”, that is, in the forward as well as the backward directions (see column 3, lines 11-21 and column 4, lines 18-31). It is clear that the teeth 12 of the Garde *et al* dispenser “prevent” rotation in the opposite direction.

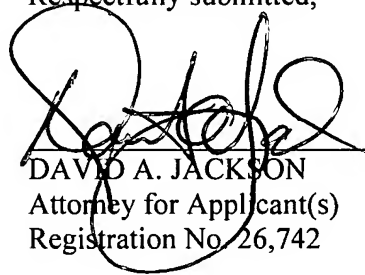
To the contrary, the dispensing device of the present invention allows the cover to be rotated in both the forward as well as the backward directions. Thus, as recited in claim 1, there is a “retaining response” that allows that bi-directional rotation of the cover and further provides more of a restraining response to movement in the backward direction than in the forward direction. As described in claim 1, there is recited “that said retaining response is more powerful in the cover’s rotating direction backward in the dispensing schedule than in its rotating direction forward in the dispensing schedule”.

As such, while it is more difficult to rotate the present cover in the backward direction it is still intended to be so rotated. In certain situations it is more convenient to move the cover one or a few compartments in the backward direction than to rotate it a full round in the forward direction. Such a situation can be, for example, when filling the compartments, the person accidentally fills a previous compartment incorrectly such that it is necessary to rotate

the cover in the backward direction to correct that fill. Also, the ability to rotate the cover in the backward direction is useful if the person accidentally rotated the cover too far in the forward direction, either during dispensing or in filling the compartments. Again, the ability to move the cover in the backward direction is then very useful.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the ability to move the cover in the backward direction, that is, in "either" direction as recited in the independent claim 1 is unobvious over the Garde *et la* reference, taken with any one of the Baker *et al*, Lambelet or McAllister *et al* references, and an allowance of the present application is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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